



FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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Welcome to Friday Night Facts! While our office is a little quieter this week, we are still helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina and also Hurricane Rita. With the assistance from many Social Workers who are volunteering their assistance, we have helped hundreds of victims successfully connect with state supported services, including food stamps, Medicaid and housing. We are not alone in our efforts to help hurricane victims. In this expanded edition of Friday Night Facts, we have included just a few of the ways that other Hoosiers have helped the many people displaced by this natural disaster.

If your organization helped anyone who was a victim of the hurricanes, write us back and let us know what you did, how you did it and how many people were assisted. Thanks for your efforts and your continued interest in the work of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Come to a Conversation with OFBCI!

The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives will be holding a series of community forums in Central Indiana in the first and third weeks of October! At these meetings, we will introduce OFBCI, share plans for key initiatives and engage community members in identifying local needs, interests, and accomplishments. These meetings are free and open for all to attend. To RSVP or to ask a question, contact John Rentsch at jrentsch@ofbci.in.gov or 317-234-4032.

- Brownsburg: October 4th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Anderson: October 4th, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- Franklin: October 5th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Indianapolis: October 7th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM and October 18th, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- Greenfield: October 18th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Lebanon: October 19th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

HOOSIER VOLUNTEERS ANSWER THE CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN)

- Has 300 volunteers in Gulf area.
 - Total 60 Doctors and Nurses will be stationed in the combined shelter in Alexandria.
- In Biloxi MS: There will be an average of 50 rotating through the next 6 to 8 weeks and the numbers will potentially increase when bunk beds are installed in the Staffing unit to allow for more staff.

People Helping People

- Has 26 people on the ground in Gulf States.
- Needs are for cleaning supplies, trash bags, and cleanup volunteers

United Church of Christ - Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ

Offerings are being taken for long-term recovery in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Red Cross in Indiana

Opened 1342 assistance cases for 3490 individuals given emergency financial assistance. Deployed approximately 359 disaster workers to affected region.

5 Emergency Response Vehicles (or ERVs) deployed to assist bulk distribution and feeding operations. Currently has shelters operational or on standby capacity is 1225. The Indianapolis Red Cross shelter is currently sheltering 0. Potential reopening of Fairgrounds Shelter discussed for 20 new evacuees from Rita until Oct 3rd.

The Salvation Army Indiana Division

(Stats as of Friday June 23)

- Total Number of cases opened: 150 (as of 9/23/05)

- Total Number of Individuals Served: 415 (as of 9/23/05)

Total amount in Financial Assistance Given: \$79020.00 (as of 9/23/05)

- Two Canteens still stationed in Louisiana.

- Two teams to be sent every two weeks.

Recently one team has been sent from New Albany with a canteen to Arkansas for deployment in Louisiana for Hurricane Rita

Friend Disaster Service

State Liaison to State EOC Coordinating INVOAD information Liaison on Teleconferences.

St. Vincent DePaul

Society of St. Vincent DePaul is currently supplying furniture and some food to hurricane victims.

Emergency and Rescue Services Support (EARSS) (DAVVIS)

✦ There were a total of 4,798 hits against www.indianadisasterhelp.org on Monday, September 26, 2005.

There have been a total of 88,062 hits against the site since September 1, 2005.

Hope International Ministries

Still serving the local evacuees on a daily basis.

North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMCOR)

Collecting flood buckets, health kits and other supplies for distribution.

Developing teams to go into the damaged areas for clean up activities.

Collecting money to be used by UMCOR in our church wide relief efforts.

South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMCOR)

- Methodist Churches are working with sister churches in the Katrina area.

- St. Lukes United Methodist Church is developing Long Term Recovery Teams

5 Warehouse distribution centers currently the four states of LA, MS, AL, and FL.

I-CART Indiana Crisis Assistance Response Team

On-site psychological first aid support to Salvation Army and American Red Cross for shelter residents.

- Crisis counseling support to medical teams deployed to LA through HCRN.

Team Members assisting with contact follow-up on evacuees here in Indiana.

Covenant Cooperative Ministry (new member of INVOAD)

✦ Collection and distribution of essential household items is on going.

✦ CCM continues to refer all new contacts first to Red Cross. CCM has not been successful in establishing a chain of communication between Red Cross and Salvation Army locally.

CCM volunteers are organizing a family social event and social services day at the relief center next week so families may have one central point of contact to learn about community agencies. Community

✦ volunteers are taking the lead in this project with increasing interest from local churches.

CCM is also recruiting volunteers to help with the shipping of relief supplies. Collection is on going for one week and shipment will follow.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A NATURAL DISASTER IN INDIANA?

We have all watched anxiously as the events of Hurricane Katrina and now Hurricane Rita have unfolded. A hurricane is not a threat for Indiana, but there are natural disasters that pose serious threats to our area more often than we realize. Please take a moment to review these tips for keeping yourself and your family prepared.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. Always pay attention to tornado watches and warnings that are issued and seek appropriate shelter immediately. Move toward the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway), putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside. If you are in a vehicle, trailer, or mobile home, get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or storm shelter.

Thunderstorms/Lightning

Every thunderstorm produces lightning so it is important to take all of them seriously. During a thunderstorm, get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Avoid showering or bathing and using a corded telephone. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use. Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area. When the roads are flooded, do not drive into the water unless you can actually see the ground.

Fire

Always have functional smoke alarms in your house. Plan an escape route with a meeting place and practice it with your family. Make sure windows can be opened and consider escape ladders if your residence has more than one level. Teach family members to stay low to the floor and to never use the palm of your hand or fingers to test for heat on closed doors- burning those areas could impair your ability to escape. If you cannot escape from a window, hang a white or light-colored sheet outside the window, alerting fire fighters to your presence.

Disaster Supply Kits

Every household should have a Disaster Supply Kit which can be accessed in case of an emergency. Here are some things that you should have on hand at all times to be prepared for a natural disaster:

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket.
- A first aid kit that includes a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash.
- Personal hygiene products.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- Keep important family documents in a water- and fire-proof container.